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REMARKS

of

SENATOR PHILANDER C. KNOX

at a dinner given to the

Pennsylvania Delegation
in Congress

by

HON. JOSEPH C. SIBLEY

December 4

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Class JK 2357

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MR. HOST, MR. TOASTMASTER AND FELLOW GUESTS :

As a member of the Pennsylvania delegation in Congress, it is an honor and pleasure to meet my fellow members upon the threshold of the Sixtieth Congress under such delightful auspices.

I expect to see the Pennsylvania delegation make itself conspicuous this session, as usual, by its good sense. I am sure its influence will be felt in all measures of importance, and through the industry of its members it will reach the heart of what is proposed and what is needed; I am likewise confident it will discriminate wisely between the nostrums offered for the palliation of public ills and the true remedy that goes to the cause of such infirmities with which it will be called upon to deal; and that it will avoid the snares of the high-sounding phrase and deft manipulation of words and facts when employed, as they frequently are, to catch the unwary law maker.

It would surprise me greatly to find in this delegation any lack of appreciation of the fact that we represent here our people, and our Commonwealth, and that we are chosen for our places not because the people wish to

gratify our ambitions, but because they expect a service in the interest of the whole people marked by the courage of intelligent and patriotic conviction.

For the too generous words of commendation spoken of me to-night, permit me to thank you all most sincerely. I value them especially as words of approval of such public service as I have been enabled to render in the past. As to the suggestion of possible higher service for the future, that suggestion must rest upon such foundation as my public record and the wishes of Pennsylvania Republicans supply.

I wish I could feel as certain of the value of the one as I feel gratitude for the confidence implied in the other.

An astute political leader once said, "Republican nominations have always been made with a thorough understanding and concession of the fitness and availability of the candidates and an intelligent and comprehensive survey of tactical positions."

This observation was predicated upon a resumé of the conditions and reasons which led to the selection of all the Republican candidates from Fremont to McKinley.

Supplementing this statement and bringing the party record to date, I may add that in 1904, Theodore Roosevelt was nominated and overwhelmingly elected

as a tribute to his sincerity and in approval of his unrelenting purpose to stamp out public vice and corporate abuses and to secure the equality of all before the law.

Let me venture to predict, Mr. Toastmaster, that the delegates to the next Republican National Convention will approach and perform their duty of selecting the nominee of the party with the same wisdom, with an eye single to the public and party weal and uninfluenced by other considerations. I also venture to predict, without alluding at all to the Pennsylvania suggestion, that the nominee, whoever he may be, and many good men have been mentioned, will be a progressive Republican and earnestly desirous of maintaining the record of his party as the leader in all real and rational movements for the advancement of the people in their National affairs.

Adverting to what has been said here to-night, let me add that the Republican party has always fostered, guarded and protected the vast interests of this country, the interests of the farmer, the workman, the manufacturer, the shipper, the carrier, and the general public, and Republican policies in these respects will be advanced along healthful and constitutional lines wherever and whenever it is found to be necessary to secure

that absolute equality of right and opportunity which is bottomed upon the immutable foundations of natural justice. For all of these things the present administration has notably struggled with marked success, both in the halls of legislation and in the courts of justice.

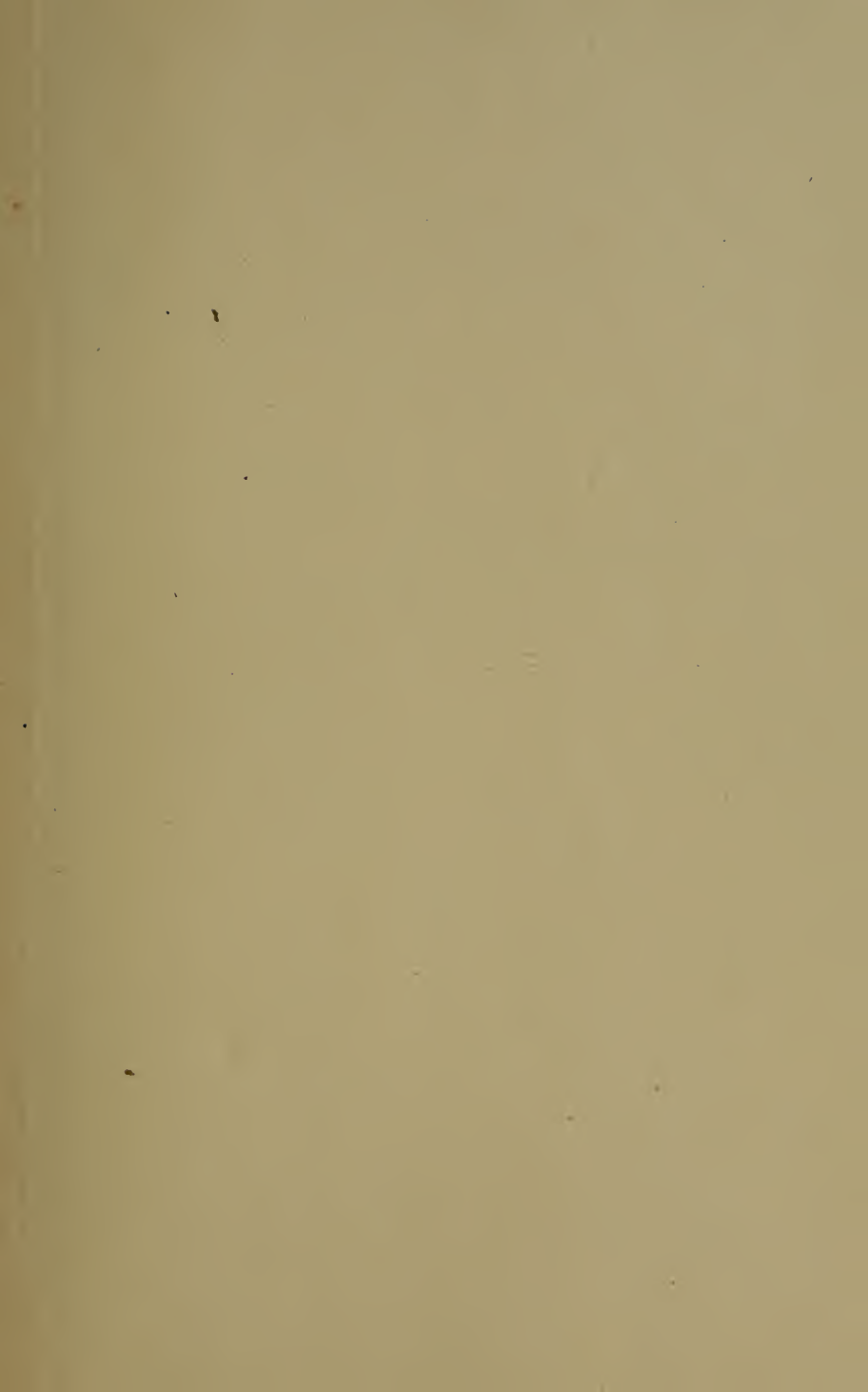
The sum of Democratic criticism of what we have accomplished is that they would have done it themselves if they had been in power and this amounts to approval.

When I speak of making progress upon constitutional lines, I do so well knowing the disposition in some quarters to raise the cry that when a public man now speaks reverently of the Constitution of his country, which every servant of Nation and State is sworn to defend, he is making an implied assault upon all progress; just as in other quarters it is with equal absurdity proclaimed when President Roosevelt refers approvingly to the maxim that honesty is the best policy he is violently assailing the foundations of credit. Of course, as in most instances, sound sense is found between these extreme views. We will get on better in this country when less heed is taken of those who speak derisively of rationality and stability, and less heed of those who see in all progress the seeds of panic.

It is most gratifying to be able to say of the Consti-

tution of the United States that power was found between its covers to vitalize each important progressive step that has been taken in National development during the last six years, and it is equally gratifying to say of this administration that I have never known it to make a recommendation that has become a law, or to place an executive construction upon an existing law affecting largely the general welfare, that its position has not been sustained in the Supreme Court when it has reached that tribunal.

Mr. Toastmaster, yielding tolerance for the opinions of others and demanding tolerance for our own, Republicans should and will pull together, in the future as in the past, with true allegiance to our Country, our Constitution, our Party, and our President. While the exigencies of ante-convention politics will generate the usual and useful friction necessary to secure a finished product, and while small minds will be befogged by impressions of irreconcilable differences, and fail to grasp the relation between the things they understand and the things that are important, yet in the end, with its best blood in the Convention, the Republican party will name the next President of the United States and its choice, wherever it may fall, will receive unanimous Republican approval.



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